

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 06766 091757Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----125208 091759Z /50

O 091640Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9877
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 6766

EXDIS-HANDLE AS NODIS

BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY

PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH SAYS NKOMO MAY RETURN

REF: PRETORIA 6733

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN SALISBURY ON DECEMBER 8, SMITH STATED THAT JOSHUA NKOMO MAY OPT TO RETURN TO RHODESIA. REFERRING TO NKOMO AS "A WILY OLD POLITICAL BIRD", SMITH SAID HE PROBABLY WOULD REALIZE THAT HIS AVSENCE FROM RHODESIA IS DIMINISHING HIS SUPPORT WITHIN THE COUNTRY. IN ORDER FOR HIM TO RETURN, SMITH SAID, NKOMO WOULD HAVE TO
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"TURN HIS BACK ON TERRORISM". SMITH ALSO SAID THAT EVEN IF A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED WITHOUT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THERE WOULD BE A DECREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY BECAUSE THE CAUSE FOR FIGHTING, I.E. THE REJECTION OF MAJORITY RULE, WOULD HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

2. COMMENT: HAWKINS CALLED THIS EVENING TO CORRECT WHAT

HE HAD TOLD ME YESTERDAY (PRETORIA 6733). HE SAID HE
HAD JUST LEARNED THAT CHINAMANO AND CHAMBATI HAD BEEN
IN LONDON EARLIER THIS WEEK AND HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO
SALISBURY. HE SUGGESTED SMITH'S STATEMENT PROBABLY MADE
AFTER CONFERRING WITH THE TWO ZAPU OFFICIALS AND HENCE
COMMENT THAT NKOMO MAY OPT TO RETURN TO RHODESIA MAY
MORE CLOSELY REFLECT NKOMO'S INTENTION THAN PF STATEMENT
MADE IN MAPUTO. I FIND THIS HIGHLY SPECULATIVE ON
HAWKIN'S PART. IT MAY BE DESIGNED TO CONVEY IMPRESSION
THAT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT EFFORT HAS MORE OF CHANCE THAN
IS ACTUALLY THE CASE. I PASS IT ALONG FOR WHAT IT MAY
BE WORTH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, NATIONALISTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, SF, (SMITH, IAN D), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
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